Ben Huebner

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My Name in Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, and I hope these four journals will help you to get a better understanding of what I stand for and what I have accomplished. If you are reading this, you probably know that I protested the South African Apartheid for much of my life. I objected to the pass laws and all the other racial decisions made by the government of that time. In 1952 I became acquainted with the African National Congress and we, as a group worked toward the defiance of unjust laws. I soon became an important person in the ANC, and traveled South Africa to raise support. However, these methods were not working to solve the problem. I proposed and started organizing a military wing of the ANC as well. The ANC was becoming a good organization which could help me in my life dream of ending apartheid. Unfortunately, things soon took a turn for the worse.

I knew the potential consequences of my actions. Under such a prejudiced government I could easily be subject imprisonment, but I also knew that I had a cause. That cause was a good one, and I could make my nation a better place by fighting for the cause. I chose to do so. Soon the consequences came around the corner. I was banned from meetings and confined. In 1956, I and other activists were arrested. Soon after, my wife left me. As consequences kept breaking down on me, I was sentenced to five years in prison with hard labor. Since I didn’t denounce my beliefs I ended up with a life sentence in prison. These are all consequences that I paid for my beliefs, but I believe that my peers and countrymen are proud and thankful.

I am glad I had motivation to commit and act of civil disobedience. I knew that I was a man just like all the other men, and I knew that I should be equal. I was born a leader and raised a leader, and I knew someone needed to step up to the plate. The African National Congress was also very motivational because they were people who had the same ideas and viewpoints as me when it came to life changing topics like the South African apartheid. By not loosing motivation and thus following through with this act, I helped the nation of South African out of Apartheid. This ended pass laws, and even allowed black to vote in 1990. I was released from jail after 27 years. I was 75 years of age at the time. I took lead of the ANC, which had recently been mad legal again, and soon I even rose to the position of the president of South Africa. I was awarded a Noble peace prize for my effort and sacrifice in the fight against apartheid in South Africa.

As a whole, my experience with civil disobedience was a good one. I suffered at times and I had very good conditions at times – just like any other man, but I did it for a cause. I think my experience with civil disobedience has built me to be a better man and has added to my character. I believe that my efforts and actions were well worth the sacrifices I paid for them. I accomplished a great good in my country and have helped turn the pages of history in favor of fairness and equality. I would have gone through much more to accomplish such a great feat as ending apartheid in South Africa, but it was not necessary. Now I continue to work for a better world as I fight for Aids awareness and other worthy causes that I come across. I hope my story has had a positive influence on you, and I hope that in the future you will stand of for what is right, even if it means making a sacrifice.